

SCOOP THE CUB REPORTER

This Leap Year Business is Getting too Serious

By "Hop"



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS OF THE WAR

Correspondence of the Associated Press

LODZ, Poland, Jan. 7.—By no means the least of the problems which the Germans have to solve in Lodz is the school question. On their occupation of the city last December, the Germans found hopelessly inadequate school facilities, and a shortage of teachers so great that it was out of the question to supply entirely the deficiency from Germany.

The city has a youthful population of some 80,000, and facilities for only 25,000 pupils. Some 20,000 of these attend the Polish folk or common schools, where they are instructed by men who themselves have nothing more than a high school education, and practically no pedagogical training. The remaining 5000 attend private schools, and come, of course, from the better classes of the population.

In all the Polish folk schools, which are terribly overcrowded, there are in all but 450 underpaid, ill-prepared teachers. Aside from the number of children who attend the public and private schools, there are uncounted hundreds whose only educational opportunities lie in the 300 odd Jewish

"cheders."

In company with the educational chief of the city, an Associated Press correspondent recently made a tour through Lodz, specially bent on seeing the "cheders" and their hordes of pupils. There was revealed a condition of things almost unbelievable. The first school visited was typical of all the rest. It was in the second story of a building overlooking a stable, and large enough to accommodate thirty children at the outside. Sixty-seven youngsters, however, were jammed into the little apartment, and sat in each other's laps to avoid standing.

Dirt, scraps of bread and pieces of vegetables—remnants of bygone lunches by the children—covered the floor. Such of the clothing as was not ragged was monstrously dirty.

The teacher was a middle aged Jew, whose wife teaches on alternate days a class of girls in her bed room under conditions that appear no more favorable than in the boys' school. Each child pays 60 kopeks (30 cents) a month for the instruction he receives, consisting principally of a

smattering of religion.

The school inspector had never visited this particular "cheder" before, but from long experience he lighted a cigarette before entering the room to combat the sickening odor of the overcrowded place. The teacher, used to visits from Russian officials, began at once to protest that he had no money with which to pay tribute, and showed obvious relief when he was assured that no money was desired.

His expression changed to wonder, however, when he was sternly ordered to reduce the size of his class, to eliminate all children under 7 years old, and to clean up the floors and desks. He promised readily enough, but it was only too plain that he did not at all understand why such measures were necessary.

With all their every disadvantages, the Lodz schools give evidence, through their very overcrowding, of an almost pitiful desire on the part of both Poles and Jews for some kind of education. Plans for the future include an extension on a large scale of the school facilities to accommodate this desire.

PRICES OF FOOD IN PAST AND PRESENT

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Food prices in the United States during 1914 were higher than at any time during the last thirty-seven years with the exception of the years 1882 when they were 4 per cent higher than 1914 prices, 1883 when they were on the same level, and in 1912 when they were 1 per cent higher. The bureau of labor statistics in its annual bulletin just issued on wholesale prices of commodities reviewing the years from 1860 to 1914 discloses that in the fifty-five years food prices were highest in 1864 when they were 75 per cent more than 1914 prices and lowest in 1896 when they were 40 per cent below.

In the years of the civil war and during a dozen years or more afterward prices of all commodities were the highest since 1860 when the first attempt was made at keeping a record of wholesale prices. In 1864 prices of most commodities reached their highest point. Lowest prices were recorded in the years from 1894 to 1898.

The effect of the European war on wholesale prices in the United States is not fully disclosed in the report as prices for only the first five months of the war are recorded. Comparison of civil war prices with those prevailing in this country during the European war therefore is not possible. The Spanish-American war apparently had little effect on whole-

sale prices as they remained on about the same level as they had been in the period immediately preceding it.

Farm products prices in 1914 were higher than they had been in the last 44 years. As with food prices their highest point was reached in 1864 when 85 per cent more than in 1914 and lowest in 1896 when 56 per cent below.

Clothes and clothing were lower in 1914 than during the previous year, and were higher than at any time since 1884, when they were on the same level, except in 1907, 1910 and 1913. Their highest prices were in 1864 when 254 per cent more than in 1914, and lowest in 1896 and 1897, when 25 per cent lower.

Fuel and lighting prices were 5 per cent lower in 1914 than in 1913, but were 32 per cent higher than the lowest point reached in 1894, and 120 per cent below the highest point, reached in 1865.

Metals and metal products were lower than they had been since 1905, being 8 per cent below 1913 prices. Their highest point was reached in 1864, when 194 per cent higher than in 1914, and lowest in 1898 when 27 per cent below 1914 prices.

Lumber and building materials were 4 per cent lower than in 1913, 82 per cent below their highest prices reached in 1864, and 38 per cent above their lowest point reached in 1897.

Drugs and chemicals were 6 per

cent higher than in 1913 and higher than they had been in 30 years. They were 280 per cent below their highest point made in 1864 and 33 per cent higher than their lowest prices in 1895.

House furnishing goods were higher than they had been in 30 years, being 25 per cent higher than their lowest prices made in 1897 and 184 per cent below the highest prices prevailing in 1864.

Prices of all commodities combined were 1 per cent below the prices of 1913, and on the same level as those of 1912. They were lower by 137 per cent than the high prices of 1864, and higher by 33 per cent than the lowest prices prevailing in the years of 1896 and 1897.

UNDER THE ROSE

This may be as good a time as any to call attention to the unpleasant fact that the Indians in this valley are getting altogether too much whiskey to be entirely compatible with good behavior and assurance to the upper valley residents of peaceful life.

There is absolutely no excuse for feeding up the "noble red man" on intoxicants, and nothing can be said in extenuation of the offense. It is in defiance of the federal laws, reading very plainly upon this subject, and those laws prescribe rigorous penalties for their violation.

The Indian's money may look big, but, when compared to a term in the federal prisons, is not so all important. If some nasty cases are to be avoided, it behooves certain of the valley population to shut down on the Indian liquor trade.—Obelisk.

ESCAPED BOY RETURNS

Frank Raines, one of the boys who recently escaped from the Nevada industrial school, voluntarily returned to Elko determined to stay at the school, earn back his credits, profit through the educational advantage offered, and go out and face the world with a clean record, says the Elko Independent.

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CASE CONTINUED

On account of the failure of Attorney Cook to conclude his law business in Reno in time to arrive this morning, the contempt proceedings in the case of the Tonopah Extension Mining company against the West End Consolidated Mining company, was postponed today in the district court.

MEET AS TOWN BOARD

The county commissioners met this morning as a town board. The only business transacted was the allowing of town bills.

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